

7/7/72

Dear Js,

It seems like I took up most of your 7/3! Lil and I enjoyed those letters, so much that on returning home from a trip with enough time to do some needed grassmowing, I'm going to answer and write a letter that will not be unpleasant, as most have been. I skimmed them but not the clippings just before we left, after Lil read them. She chuckled much in reading Je's of the 2d. With the copout that it is the first, but with the realization that after "nasty little streak of male chauvinism" comes "male chauvinist pigs"

King/Ray clips: young Jim Lesar spent about 5 hours here yesterday. During that time, aside from brief preliminary conversation and lunch, and a bit of talk while Lil was preparing it, we began the dubbing of my interviews of the week of 5/7, skipping one entirely because it isn't relevant to the immediate purpose and just getting done with that with John Ray. I think that even after all the hard work he has done drafting the habeas corpus thing, which had to draw together in his mind much of what we know - he spent two months on it - his mind had a slight blowing. The defects in some of my letters are sometimes their assets. My interviewing is exactly that way but reversed: their assets are what others would regard as defects. I lay it all out straight and just chat, encouraging the one I'm interviewing to talk. I take the time to listen and tape and the surprising thing, after listening to this one interview of which 2 1/2 hours are on tape, is how little I missed of the leads that turned up in the chatting. And, natch, I got much we didn't know. Not as much as I'd have liked to, but quite a bit. Plus a helluva story on Foreman and for the main purpose, preparation of affidavits. Jim will be coming up to do the same thing with all the other interviews (he has no choice, he'll not get them any other way) and then we'll have to go over what I'd accumulated by way of clips and what I've gotten since because they provide extensive and important corroboration. I don't think anyone would print the story on Foreman I could do, but it would be funny as hell. Jim hasn't heard all of it. I have given them dubs I made. We discussed each half hour as we did each. So, if these are in my files, after the dubbing fat friend Jim will be going over them here (again because he'll have no choice) and we can find them then. Or, I can, if you'd like, extract all those you want by date and let you have what I have.

I hope it is not being a male chauvinist pig (aka msp) to comment favorably on feminine intuition, as depicted in the suggestion my Times source might not be dependable. That has been the case. And I'd have to agree that if time is worth anything, it is better to copy than keep lists and worry. It is just that I am so dominated by the need to squeeze pennies that I am concerned about the minor expenses of others.

On the Demo gugging, I think this may involve me as an early victim of whatever the Hunt(Bender)operation turns out to be. I think I've told you about his being at the now- unidentified literary agency while at CIA and they killed a deal I had set with the SEPost. My interest now is much greater! I've raised with Jim the possibility of a suit, as you will by now have realized I hinted at pretty strongly to Williams.

Back to the msp dept: in our early days together, when Lil had a regular job and I was free-lancing, I did the clipping, indexed them all and also backed them on paper. On one subject, I even kept them in notebook, decimated in a futility not a real defense by The Hollywood Teh, who returning nothing. Maybe I sent you my letter to Anthony Quinn after reading two chapters (giveaway) of his coming (and beautiful) The Original Sin. I know I intended asking if you have Dalton Trumbo's address for a similar purpose. The kitchen chores then were also largely reversed. Invariably at evening meals if we were to go boating or things like that.

Gees! I wish I had such translation services as from "legat buts" a few thousand miles closer! Incredible! I didn't make it out in reading until translation.

Jim's on medical. Correct the thinking in the first graph, "ordinary doctors are not equipped to understand the origins and workings of the various causes of what add up to medical anxiety." Include shrinks not because they don't understand but because they don't communicate and they understand too little and are afraid to go into. In a life in which futility has been commonplace, attempting to learn something about this from the pros is one of the more persisting and hopeless.

If I didn't go into hyper-ventillation, nudge me. Fatigue is one of the classic symptoms. It is not real fatigue but can be if one isn't active and accumulates a few years. My first recent (there may have been earlier undiagnosed) attack of ^{hyper-}ventillation was initially misdiagnosed as heat fatigue at the hospital. I couldn't buy that, not with

a swimming pool, two air conditioners, etc. This concern may have helped precipitate the second, correctly diagnosed. More, the docs won't talk. Our records show that anxiety had been diagnosed in both of us and we were never told. I have discovered that in my case, with or without diagnosis, the classic symptoms were noted on the records 2-3 years after the onslaught of varmint (military helicopters to all but Lil). Or, about 15 years ago!...When you call your boss a paranoid schizo, it makes me wonder how one can be an exec in news today and not develop emotional ills....Je's ulcer of 20 yrs ago:I developed one and healed it without knowing I had it, it was discovered by accident and the first attack I ever had was from prescribed medication that should never be prescribed for one with an ulcer. Until I figured it out for myself, those were rough days. Once I did, I launched into an Hebraic variant of an old Roman bust, eating all the wrong things, drinking as I liked, which was much but no intoxication, at a festive family occasion, the 50th wedding anniversary of a liked cousin. And the troubles disappeared and there was no price-paying. (NEVER mention doctors to Lil!)

My own doctors never considered switching me from Miltown (cheaper under generic, meprobamate) to valium until the doctor who saw me after the second h-v attack said he found it indicated with his patients who use their heads rather than muscles. One can almost always have an allergy to some medications. I think for me the valium is a shade better.

Jim's beginning with Hal: I think you'll have cause when I get to the one on the CIPA. It is Jerry P(olicoff). He will be reluctant to credit on Gary, but as you'll see from what I enclosed earlier today, Gary's secondary source was also my work he guaranteed to keep confidential and it was wrong to use anyway.

Williams is E.B. Thought I'd carboned, but guess I didn't. It is the "emo suit. He had contacts who should be able to come up with descriptions of Frank Bender and "Bernie", if not pictures, quite possibly Hunt, who I think is Bender, and reason not to believe that the code names were "Eduardo" and "Macho", which is my suspicion. He introduced me to one who wound up producing nothing. He has other sources from the past. Just ask him not to spread it around that I have tentative identifications, of why he is asking, even if it is guessed.

Reason for his being out of things: feeling futility, resentment at reading what I'd written about his (he thinks) love I've checked my 6/19 and guess the enclosure told him, a hunch borne out by the opening.

UnChristian: attitude comprehensible. Dubious character. I was concerned about this before I met him, more afterward, but decided it was worth the risk, there being few alternatives. PH then shared suspicions, that early. If you really want to have suspicions, the psycho picked to leak the alleged Mafia contract story, the hit on Garrison, looked for Jonn first, resorted to Marv after Jonn was unavailable. If anyone is really interested, his wife, who divorced him, is in Carmel, as I recall. His distance is quite unlike his feelings toward you both as so often expressed to me.

Three-pager: Smokey Cantor-I was wondering if you'd say the drawing of him in the copy you returned, said to be of him and by an artist, suggested Bremer, as it did to me. It is from an unauthenticated source who has fed tantalizing stuff. Eason Show: no further word. Wilco if I can't get them to do it. I have your phone as 388-2426...Look forward to your perusal States. Including on recent munitions arrests on which I've noted for you Re Mohrenschildt testimony (h21, I think).

On The Big Mess, you are right on Howard's reaction. I have tried to continue it that way. I have spent much time on all aspects of this, most on how he comes out of it. He is getting confused as of his last letter, delayed reaching me I suspect because his dad had it in pocket. I have not sent you all carbons mostly because they would be too burdensome.

I have from the first felt that there was no possibility of control but that Wecht was from our point of view worst for several reasons, his eminence in his field and his subsequent unavailability for counter-attack. Since first, as I've had to go over my files, the probability of self-seeking is unavoidable. Now there are some real zany tapes of a real Zany Cyril to confound him with. Once Marshall double-crossed my Senator friend I knew someone had made a decision not in Teddy or our interest and we could not prevent except through the improbable, Teddy. But this has taken so much time that I've been able to do little with PH and Lil has been feeling so lousy that she has done little checking of the index, which means picking up the early adds and the corrections to the point I've reached and what she hadn't done. (She's one of the best indexers ever, even if I sound MSP!).

No chance of candor offending. One of the reason I am happy you can take the time to go over so much is your judgement. There is nobody of our years I can consult, nobody with experience equivalent ~~you~~ to yours(pl-msp). In candor, I must admit that I didn't stop to think about what kind of approach to take, for a number of reasons. I suppose the first is the kind of guy I am. I act in character and write that way. Then I felt there was a need for haste, so I could learn what I could of what had been so carefully kept secret from me and prepare, to the degree one without power can. If I ask Sylvia for an explanation on something like this, I'll get an apology because she is so busy. I know her and her hangups too well. And her (NOT msp)Svengali influence on the younger. As it happens, the tone of the responses from all three(and I didn't expect three responses) was relatively mild, sort of tolerant from the two males, entirely non-responsive and less than truthful from Sylvia. I don't know if I sent you my reply to that. I was tempted to send you and Howard hers, But I didn't, in part because she refers to the taking of amphetamines, prescribed, and her reaction to not having them, she says, when her doctor died. I knowindependently that the timing of this death was remarkable, that she got sick when she got my letter and didn't open it for a while. She didn't read it, by her own admission, until after she got sick. I failed in the first effort to break through with her. I took the time for a long response to her non-response on the chance of getting through, and will not waste more time if she doesn't respond or is non-responsive. As I think the letter I sent you shows, my accusations were pretty specific. Not one addressed, as I recall. So, I went after her again, on her "reply". I fear her emotional ills are too deep-rooted for any breakthrough. But if this has the effect of persuading her to get out and stay out it will, tragically, be a conspicuous success. You may, considering the magnificence of her work, be unwilling to consider it. But it is more than here now evil influence on the young, more than her at best unthinking intrusion into what she doesn't even try to understand. It is to immobilize her from such future stupidities. A battle ain't a war. There is much ahead, and getting rid of the internal liabilities is one of the more essential needs. I am certain that without having thought it through, this was one of my objectives. There is so much I'm into I just can't take time and think all these things through, as my writing must show. There is almost no work being done, and too much of that by me to make the work healthy. So, I have to break with those I've loved who can't be trusted. This situation is not unique with me. Even if I were wrong, which it is now clear I am not, that Gary and Jerry would even consider doing what they did without talking to me, when they knew it was my work and they knew my fears, having gone into them at some length, means I have to off them from my life. And if possible the subject. Howard wrote Jerry what for him in an incredible and blistering letter, really tearing him up for what can't be better than ego-tripping, immaturity (Howard is 19!), irresponsibility, arrogance and dishonesty in personal relations. The astounding thing is that Howard didn't get Jerry's letter to me from me but from Jerry, was was smug and guilty as charged, else he'd never have written such a letter. And he independently hit Jerry on the same things I did. As I told Howard and as he independently told me in a crossed exchange, he has gotten an education from this. Of course, in all this I'm also fighting for him, his integrity, his future, and what he can in the future do in this work, handicapped by the need not to dominate him, which you detected. This is no simple matter, and with developments I felt would burden you got more difficult. So, while it evades your legitimate criticism, in this case it has turned out right and I had nothing to lose and something to gain besides letting it blow and relieve a strained valve.

Sometimes before but more often after the fact I do wonder about the vigor of my approaches. I could take time to rewrite, they might be cooler. I'm not really sure on this, which is, I think, a kind of confession of other sins, including stubbornness. Your illustration is a case in point, and it distresses me much. Mary has one of the sharpest minds I've ever met. I am satisfied that while she can be cunning and exceedingly deceptive, with me she has been completely honest. She has had really serious trouble. She says she did send me a message months ago. That doesn't account for the months before nor failure to drop a card in response to several letters, nor to phone, as she did for an hour after getting that letter. She is financially burdened, but she could afford to call. This also troubled me much. She has only copies of some of my files, has for 8 months now. Mary is pretty far right, husband Buck is a "minuteman". Or was. Both were great to me in every way. I find it hard to understand that a mind like hers can hold such political views, much harder than Buckley. I guess it is sort of inheritance, the lingering Old South.

Increasingly I wonder if it is adequate to quote Al Smith and stand on the record. If it is true that I've turned on those who couldn't be turned on any other way, I also wonder if with some I might have with a more sedate approach. (As you note, it hasn't worked with EMK, didn't with RPK or any other one I tried, and I began the way with Marshall.)

I've had only one interview that went that way and then after all else failed. With Zapruder.

And I guess it is not enough to say it is the Old Testament in me, for I should control what is in me. Your point is legitimate and I don't think I really know the answer, given the conditions and pressures of my work and life, the context. A certain amount would have to be charged to anger, some to dismay, especially when confidence is so blatantly and deliberately breached by those of whom I've felt like I was their father. Since reading your comment, I have wondered, as driving I've had time to do, whether I was trying to be fatherly and impress upon them what they'd never forget.

Severe as you found this, I tell you it was less than I wanted to say, in content and in expression. In both cases, above everything else, the judgement couldn't have been worse, the callous indifference to our feelings as well as our right more conspicuous, and again, both could have called. Jerry, in fact, was down and acted as though nothing had happened. That calls for vomiting, especially when he later called it "good conscience".

Howard has since confirmed that he did not ask me to keep what he said in confidence and despite the embarrassment to himself, is in accord. He is the one person who has gotten copies of everything, except where I deal with personal things with Mary, her family problems. I also asked him if Sylvia had sent her letter. Here I disagree with your conclusion, not the statement of fact. That the information was "admittedly incomplete" does not mean that it was inaccurate and does not mean that it was inadequate. It was quite accurate, and it demanded that something be done immediately, and if there was special timing in all of this, it has thrown it off, as of now by more than a week.

Digression during supper break: one unanticipated benefit of Sylvia's reaction is disclosure of espionage not previously reported, other materials. She shouldn't even have known I have what she referred to. And it is not covered in any documents I gave others for unique reasons but is in PM last, newest part.

Resumed. Now suppose there is significance in whichever chief fink it is picking just the time EMK came as close as he could to endorsing McG. There had been 8 months, so if there may be no significance in decision at any time, there also can be significance in the selection of that time to the exclusion of earlier and later. With a possibility of timing significance, it was important for me to move fast. I am aware that the timing may be as irrelevant as it is conspicuous. Could I take a chance? I felt not. Could I have any influence when I could not afford to use the phone and a war council was scheduled for just one week? Not by waiting. If it is not the kind of influence I hoped for, it seems I did have some. Then there was the question how could I get more info? I could not expect Howard to be kept informed if, as he had already shown, he was reluctant under any circumstances and insisting upon conditions to protect his integrity. Such as out with all the ignorant and irresponsibles. This seemed immediately to be inconsistent with whatever might have been in Sylvia's mind in going after the CTIA, which she detests and has refused to join or associate with, and Jerry, who hasn't even read WHITEWASH. Even after he had a purloined copy of Burkley's signature he couldn't spell the name, so you know how much reading he has done. I was aware that all this had been done behind my back, including all the preparations for "briefing" Cyril. It was only the admission that my work had been stolen that impelled Howard to call me. That outraged him. So, I felt I had to do something immediately, for it was then close to bedtime, and I did, immediately.

I must have made a mistake and used Larry for Jerry. Larry is a good reporter in another city, Chicago. He would never do such a thing.

I hope this is enough to answer your question, would it have been better to wait. Among the other reasons I do not go into is that everybody was on warning, worried for the first time. In the interest of each, this was necessary.

In speaking of Sylvia your perception is great. You call her "uniquely lonely". Mary said she is the loneliest person she knows. Sylvia has designed it that way. You are also correct in the presumption she would not "respond positively". Could she without confessing all? All I had hoped to do was get her to face herself and what she has been doing and why.

However, in refusing to confront, in making new and transparently false accusations, she has undercut herself as illness alone cannot explain, regardless of its nature. I have sent no one copies of her letter. If she fails to send it to Howard, he'll wonder why. When he is again here, he'll see it. From the copy of my response, he'll have enough of an idea. I think the prospects of misdirecting him in the future are now gone. Whether or not he influences the others I really don't care. Wecht is disgusted with everybody and what eh'd not say were it so, by now himself. And I regard the disclosure of further dishonesty which I can pinpoint if it was not accidental, and that I can also pinpoint, is the most positive response possible, for I know I now must be alert to other dirty doings.

Don't for a minute underestimate Sylvia's brilliance. That she has serious emotional problems that I think I am coming to understand better all the time does not diminish her intellectual capacity. She has a really fine mind. I think she compensates in many areas. I'll spare each of us the amateur shrinkery.

When you get to the young, we're on the same beam. At least for the most part. I think that while you are correct in most of them never, ever knowing real want, you omit a consideration that is also relevant to your second graph on them, dealing with the nature of society. Our generation has problems of want, but these are tangibles, could be coped with. Today's young can't possibly cope with their problem, as I suspect McCarthy's abandonment was a serious disillusionment for many of his loyalists. And others not active.

Speak for yourself, John, on what "we" wouldn't do. Our generation, perhaps, but as it is written, there is nothing new under the sun. Tolja I'm an Old Testamenter. Wait until I'm out there again! What a confession I'll make, beginning with what was thought to have been invented within the past three or four years, fighting ROTC! In a way they have less courage because they are none of them alone. Our generation had to fight with nobody back to back, if that's the way they put it in Hollywood.

By and large you are right, tho, except with these two on the personal loyalty part. In this case they just talked themselves into a different and imagine one not personal. To them they twisted this into a loyalty to principle. Both fit your scheme, if part of the Establishment. The psychologist, however, quit a nice post to work in a walk-in free clinic. The other wastes more money than we live on. He has a good research job in advertising and he is good at it, the only reason he hasn't been fired as insufferable. And I think you are right to think they think there is no solution short of revolution, most of them. It is as much a fallacy as expecting a McCarthy or a McGovern to work miracles within the system. Even those who were talking of guerrilla warfare in ten years no longer are. There was a time when I thought it possible.

My earlier letters to EMK were simpler and shorter. All I can do now is ignore the reluctance of busy people to read when they have so much to read and hope that one sometimes reaches one who thinks. Meanwhile, if something does happen, there may also be someone who remembers having read some of these. It is in attempting to communicate with these people that our own irresponsibles have ruined us. You can be sure they've been briefed with all the wilder statements by ever-concerned St. Edgar.

More,